United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1576
4 February 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council unanimously approves continuation of UNOSOM II, with revised mandate, but also authorizes reduction to force level of up to 22,000; expresses concern at reports of re-arming by Somali factions and condemns continuing violence; requests that timetable be considered for implementation of "Addis Ababa Agreements" by March 1995.

+ In Presidential statement last night, Security Council condemns Croatia for deploying elements of its Army and heavy military equipment in central and southern Bosnia and Herzegovina; calls for full withdrawal and states it would consider other serious measures if "interference" by Croatia continues.

+ World Food Programme warns that though it has adequate supplies to cover aid needs in former Yugoslavia, increasing numbers are in danger of starving because of obstruction of humanitarian aid convoys; Executive Director says commitments to allow access are not being honoured.

+ Olympic Truce, in observance of forthcoming Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway, goes into effect tomorrow, until 6 March; Truce, recognized by General Assembly resolution last year, calls for end to all hostilities for one month.

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The Security Council this afternoon approved the Secretary-General's recommendation for the continuation of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) with some revisions of its mandate. The Council went on, however, by unanimously adopting resolution 897 (1994), to authorize the gradual reduction of UNOSOM II to a force level of up to 22,000, while underlining the vital importance that it have the material means and military assets needed to enable it to discharge its responsibilities effectively and to defend its personnel.

Recognizing that the people of Somalia bore the ultimate responsibility for reconstructing their country, the Council also expressed concern at reports that Somali factions were re-arming and that a troop build-up was

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taking place in some regions. It condemned the continuing violence and in particular, the armed attacks against people engaged in humanitarian and peace-keeping efforts. The Council emphasize the crucial importance of disarmament by all parties in achieving lasting peace and stability in Somalia.

By the resolution, the Council approved the giving of priority to directing international reconstruction resources to those regions where security was being re-established and to local Somali institutions which were prepared to cooperate with the international community. It expressed appreciation to those Member States which had contributed troops or provided logistical or other assistance to UNOSOM II, and encouraged further contributions on an urgent basis.

The Council referred to the objective that UNOSOM II complete its mission by March 1995, and it called on the Secretary-General to consider, in consultation with the regional organizations and the Somali parties, establishing an agreed timetable for implementing the "Addis Ababa Agreements" by that date.

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In a Presidential statement last night, the Security Council strongly condemned Croatia for deploying elements of its Army along with heavy military equipment in the central and southern parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina and stated that it would consider "other serious measures" if Croatia failed to put an immediate end to all forms of interference in Bosnia. Describing Croatia's actions as a "serious hostile act" against a Member State of the United Nations which constituted a violation of international law, the Charter and its own resolutions, the Council demanded full respect for the territorial integrity of Bosnia.

The Council also demanded that Croatia withdraw from Bosnia and Herzegovina all elements of the Croatian Army along with their military equipment. It requested the Secretary-General to monitor the situation closely and report to it within two weeks on progress towards that complete withdrawal.

The Council again condemned the acquisition of territory by force as well as the "practice of 'ethnic cleansing' by whomsoever committed", and reaffirmed the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It also called again for all the parties there to cease hostilities, to honour their commitments and to refrain from actions which escalate or widen the conflict. It called on them to negotiate in earnest within the framework of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia to achieve an early settlement.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) says that though it has received sufficient food pledges to cover aid needs in the former Yugoslavia till April, increasing numbers of people in the region are in danger of starving.

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The Programme warns in its latest situation report that the obstruction of humanitarian aid convoys is putting at risk those who are totally dependent on outside help. "The tragedy of Bosnia is that the commitment of all parties to allow unimpeded access for the delivery of aid has not been honoured," states WFP Executive Director Catherine Bertini.

Food distribution is currently averaging only 40 to 50 per cent of the minimum required and is becoming increasingly dependent on expensive airlift and airdrop operations, according to the report. Food shortages in parts of central Bosnia have made the residents as dependent on outside assistance as the refugees and displaced or institutionalised people for whom the food aid is targeted. As a result, desperate civilians have blocked routes and pulled food off convoys. When trucks do reach their destination, local officials have to distribute the reduced quantities to many more people than it was intended to feed.

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The Olympic Truce, in observance of the forthcoming Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway, goes into effect tomorrow, until 6 March. Following the tradition of ancient Greece, all conflicts should cease and all efforts should be made to search for lasting solutions, from the seventh day before the Games to the seventh day after they end. Last October, the General Assembly voted to commit the Member States to observe the Truce, declaring that it could usefully contribute to the realization of the goals of the United Nations Charter.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) said in a statement issued today that it was determined to try, despite the obstacles facing it, to promote observance of the Truce, in the hope that its action might serve to promote dialogue and reconciliation. "The Olympic Movement is an integral part of the international community, and consequently has a duty to take part in specific actions undertaken in the cause of peace and the well-being of humanity," the statement concluded.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1577
7 February 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General expresses condemns mortar attack on market in Sarajevo on Saturday, and instructs UNPROFOR to conduct immediate investigation; by Sunday, no certainty established yet as to origin of attack.

+ New Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development begins first two-week session; will consider medium-term planning issues and sections of UNCED's Agenda 21 relating to energy.

+ Violence against women, treatment of girl children and impact on women of economic hardship are amongst issues covered by Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women, as it ends 13th session.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali expressed alarm and outrage on Saturday at the mortar attack on an open air market in Sarajevo that morning, in which dozens of civilians were killed and scores injured. According to a United Nations spokesman, he instructed the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to conduct an immediate investigation to try to establish the facts concerning the atrocity.

His Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, went to Sarajevo yesterday to supervise the investigation. The spokesman reported that Mr. Akashi, accompanied by the Force Commander of UNPROFOR, General Jean Cot, visited the scene of the attack. They later met with President Alija Izetbegovic and Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and with the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, Radovan Karadzic, and his senior military leaders. Mr. Akashi was seeking steps to reduce tension and prevent further acts of actrocity in the city. He also sought to obtain an immediate cease-fire in and around Sarajevo.

By the end of the day yesterday, UNPROFOR had been unable to establish with certainty who had fired the 120 mm mortar shell which caused the bloodshed.

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For information media--not an official record

Regarding action taken to protect "safe areas", of which Sarajevo is one, the Secretary-General recently stated that UNPROFOR did not need to seek the consent of the parties involved for operations falling within its mandate. In a letter to the Security Council, dated 28 January, he said, however, that the use of air power by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces for punitive or pre-emptive purposes would require further authorization by the North Atlantic Council (S/1994/94).

The Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina has requested an urgent meeting of the Security Council. In a letter to the Council President, dated 5 February (S/1994/124), the Bosnian Prime Minister said that continuing inaction by the Council had contributed to the massacre, and that a failure to respond to it would "embolden and further encourage" a repeat of the tragedy.

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The newly established Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development this morning opened its first two-week session. Addressing the meeting, Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, said the capacity to manage a more interdependent world would largely depend on the ability to manage energy. He stressed that informed expert opinion must be considered by the forums which made energy decisions and called on the Committee to provide expert advice on what issues should receive priority consideration.

The Committee will consider medium-term planning in the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy, as well as energy for development. It will also consider sections of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) relating to energy. Included on its agenda is an examination of ways to accelerate the exploration and development of energy resources in developing countries, and the need to ensure the flow of external resources in support of national efforts. In its discussion of energy and sustainable development, the Committee will focus on issues concerning overall energy development, new and renewable sources of energy and the efficient use of energy resources.

* * *

Violence against women, treatment of girl children and the impact on women of economic hardship were amongst the issues highlighted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which ended its thirteenth session on Friday evening. The Committee, which reviewed the reports of 15 countries, also urged States parties to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to withdraw their reservations regarding its articles on marriage and family relations.

In the General Recommendation regarding equality in marriage and family relations, the Committee stated that violence against women had great significance for women's rights and freedoms. States parties were urged to ensure that in both public and family life, women would be free of gender-based violence that impeded them as individuals.

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With respect to the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the Committee strongly emphasized that one of the main objectives was to eliminate discrimination against girl children, both before and after birth, and to improve their status, especially regarding health, nutrition and education. It also noted that the severe economic conditions facing many countries had particularly serious implications for women, who constituted the majority of those at the grass-roots level. The Committee called on Governments, international agencies and international financial institutions to alleviate the burden imposed on the lives of women and men, and their children.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1578
8 February 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General tells audience at Columbia University that only United Nations can provide global network needed to address issues crucial to development; says Members must provide political will to see Organization's tasks fulfilled.

+ Graham Blewitt appointed by Secretary-General as Acting Deputy Prosecutor of international war crimes tribunal; appointment is at suggestion of Tribunal Prosecutor, Ramon Escovar-Salom.

+ President of General Assembly deplores shelling in Sarajevo on Saturday and calls punishment of perpetrators; calls for observance of Olympic Truce; Bosnian President promises observance of Truce; Human Rights Commission condemns "horrible massacre" in Sarajevo.

+ United Nations appeals for humanitarian assistance for some 6.5 million people in the Sudan affected by war or drought; says intense fighting last year and again in recent days has increased number in need.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, delivering the "Gabriel Silver Memorial Lecture" at Columbia University yesterday, said that only the United Nations could provide the global network to address the complex issues so crucial to development -- peace-building, democratization, regional integration, human rights and the environment. "As the voice for the poorest nations, the United Nations is critical to the cause of development," he said.

Turning to peace-keeping, he said that the Organization had begun to create a second generation version, in contrast to that which had filled a critical need during the cold war years. Comprehensive efforts, like those which had succeeded in Cambodia, would become increasingly necessary to help States survive. The United Nations heard and responded to needs for assistance wherever they were felt; it should not pick and choose between suffering peoples. "For the first time in its history," he said, "the United Nations is involved in more peace-keeping, development, humanitarian and social activities which do not appear in the press than those which do."

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For information media--not an official record

The Secretary-General said that the extraordinary opportunities of this moment in history required an extraordinary response. Member States should see the Organization as the projection of their will, not as something separate and apart. The political will and authority had to be brought to bear on each United Nations resolution, so that its tasks could be seen through to their end, with mandates and missions backed by the financial and material means to do the job. For millions of people across the world, he stressed, the United Nations was more than an instrument of peace and cooperation among nations; it was the repository of hope for humanity.

* * *

The Secretary-General has announced the appointment of Graham Blewitt as Acting Deputy Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the prosecution of persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the former Yugoslavia. His appointment is at the suggestion of the Prosecutor of the Tribunal, Ramon Escovar-Salom.

Mr. Blewitt, who takes up his position in The Hague on 17 February, will be responsible for the preliminary organization of the Office of the Prosecutor. One of his first tasks will be to coordinate with the War Crimes Commission in Geneva the transfer to The Hague of its data base of evidence and the handling of ongoing investigations into alleged violations of international humanitarian law.

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The President of the General Assembly, S.R. Insanally, has deplored the incident on Saturday in Sarajevo, in which 68 civilians were killed and scores wounded, and he called for every effort to ascertain and punish the perpetrators. He appealed to all parties to the conflict to cease all hostilities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, "in order to create an atmosphere conducive to the resumption of peace negotiations within the framework of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia".

Recalling that Sarajevo was the site of the 1984 Winter Games, the President called on all parties to observe a truce, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/11 of 25 October 1993, for at least the duration of the current Olympic Games. This, he said, could provide an occasion to resume negotiations.

In response to the start of the Truce on Saturday, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic yesterday sent a message to the head of the International Olympic Committee. He said that his people would commit themselves to its observance, "as well as to the release of prisoners, hoping that these actions will meet their aims".

The Commission on Human Rights, assembled in Geneva at its fiftieth session, has expressed shock at the "horrible massacre" at the market square in Sarajevo on Saturday. It described the shelling of the civilian population of the city as part of "a pattern of despicable and outrageous violations of

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international humanitarian law and of human rights", and called for resolute action by the international community to halt such violations.

* * *

The United Nations today launched an appeal for humanitarian assistance to meet the needs of some 6.5 million people in the Sudan who have been affected by war or drought. The appeal calls for $279.7 million, to cover food aid and distribution, nutrition and health services, seeds and tools, and the repatriation of Ethiopian refugees. According to a United Nations spokesman, intense fighting last year led to an upsurge in the number of people in need, and over the last few days the situation has been aggravated by a new military campaign in southern Sudan.

Humanitarian aid had been reaching more and more people, as key portions of agreements regarding such assistance were implemented. An urgent response is sought to today's appeal, to enable the Organization to maintain the effectiveness of its efforts in the country.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1579
9 February 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Cease-fire agreement reached between parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding area in and around Sarajevo; agreement, brokered by UNPROFOR, involves positioning of UNPROFOR troops in sensitive areas and UNPROFOR control of all heavy weapons.

+ In Sunday letter to NATO, issued today, Secretary-General says mortar attacks last week against civilian targets in Sarajevo make it necessary to prepare urgently for use of air strikes to deter further such attacks; meanwhile, parties to Bosnian conflict are scheduled to resume talks in Geneva tomorrow

+ Secretary-General appoints Jean Arnault as Moderator for peace talks between Government of Guatemala and opposition URNG; calls on parties to show political will needed to make talks later this month succeed.

+ UNHCR appeals yesterday for $103 million for voluntary repatriation programme in Mozambique; three-year operation seeks to help 1.5 million Mozambicans return home after 15-year civil war.

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A cease-fire agreement has been reached between the warring parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding the area in and around Sarajevo. According to a United Nations spokesman, the agreement follows intensive discussions at the political and military levels brokered by Yasushi Akashi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for former Yugoslavia, General Jean Cot, Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), and Sir Michael Rose, UNPROFOR's Sector Commander for Sarajevo.

The agreement, sought following the series of lethal mortar attacks on Sarajevo this past weekend, involves the positioning of UNPROFOR troops in sensitive areas, monitoring, and the placing of all heavy weapons under UNPROFOR's control.

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For information media—not an official record

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In the letter Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali wrote to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on Sunday, issued at Headquarters today, he said that the mortar attacks last week against civilian targets in Sarajevo, at least one of which had been established by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to be the work of Bosnian Serb forces, made it necessary to prepare urgently for the use of air strikes to deter further such attacks.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali asked the Secretary-General of NATO to take action to obtain, at the earliest possible date, a decision by the North Atlantic Council to authorize the Commander-in-Chief of NATO's Southern Command to launch air strikes, at the request of the United Nations, against artillery or mortar positions in or around Sarajevo which were determined by UNPROFOR to be responsible for attacks against civilian targets in that city.

Meanwhile, as part of the ongoing effort to end the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the three parties to the conflict are scheduled to resume talks in Geneva tomorrow. The expected participants include the Bosnian Prime Minister, the Bosnian Serb leader and the Bosnian Croat leader.

In Geneva today, the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, held private talks today with representatives of the countries neighbouring former Yugoslavia, to discuss political, economic and security issues. Those present included the Foreign Ministers of Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Romania, and the Deputy Foreign Minister of Hungary.

* * *

In the Framework Agreement signed on 10 January by the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG), the parties requested the Secretary-General to appoint a Moderator for their peace talks. Following consultations with them, according to a United Nations spokesman, the Secretary-General has decided to appoint Jean Arnault to that post. Mr. Arnault has been participating in the negotiations as the United Nations observer since June 1992, working under the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Marrack Goulding, as he will continue to do as Moderator.

The Secretary-General reiterated today the hope he expressed in a recent letter to the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council, that the negotiations would succeed in producing an early and fair settlement. He encouraged the parties to show the political will needed to ensure the success of the next round of talks, which are to be held later this month.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) appealed yesterday for a further $102.8 million for its voluntary repatriation programme this year in Mozambique. The three-year operation, the largest the office has ever undertaken in Africa, is designed to help 1.5 million Mozambicans return from six nearby African countries. It was launched in May 1993, following the signing the year before of a peace agreement between the Government of Mozambique and the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) which ended a 15-year civil war.

During 1993, more than 500,000 Mozambican refugees returned to their devastated country, mostly on foot. Over 600,000 more repatriants are expected back this year in time for the planting season, which normally starts in September, and for the national elections, which are scheduled to take place no later than October.

Because many potential returnees this year will have to go to locations deep inside Mozambique, UNHCR will have to provide better access to those areas, as well as various forms of transport. A large part of the money sought from donors this year will go towards expenses for transportation and other logistical facilities that have to be put in place by March.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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10 February 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ NATO informs Secretary-General of its decision, in response to his request, regarding use of air strikes by its forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Secretary-General welcomes rapid response as evidence of close cooperation between United Nations and NATO.

+ In Statement on Angola, Security Council notes progress made in Lusaka talks between Angolan Government and UNITA, and demands that they redouble efforts to attain effective cease-fire and to conclude peace settlement.

+ Secretary-General deplores attempt on 5 February by members of Haitian Senate to elect new leadership; says move by participants who had promised to abstain from taking their seats impedes attempts to resolve political crisis in Haiti.

+ Preparatory meeting for African region will be held next week in Kampala, Uganda, in preparation for 1995 Ninth United Nations Congress on Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders.

* * *

A United Nations spokesman said today that the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Manfred Wörner, called Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali last night to inform him of NATO's decision regarding the use of air strikes by its forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The decision, formally conveyed later, was taken by the North Atlantic Council in response to a request to that effect from Mr. Boutros-Ghali on Sunday, following the mortar attacks on Sarajevo last Friday and Saturday.

According to the spokesman, Mr. Boutros-Ghali was pleased by the rapid response to his request, and said it augered well for cooperation between the United Nations and NATO. The Secretary-General would be informing the Security Council of the response today, and was in contact on the subject with his Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia, Yashushi Akashi.

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For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General, in a letter to the Security Council on 28 January, explained that while the use of close air support for certain specific actions by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) had already been given, the use of NATO forces for pre-emptive or punitive air strikes still required further authorization. That is what has now been given.

In a related development, a United Nations spokesman confirmed today that the Russian Federation has requested an urgent meeting of the Security Council to discuss the proposed demilitarization of Sarajevo.

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In a Statement on Angola issued this evening, the Security Council noted the progress made to date in the Lusaka talks between the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), and called upon the parties to renew their commitment to achieving a peaceful settlement of their conflict. It demanded that they redouble their efforts to urgently attain an effective and sustainable cease-fire and to complete work on the remaining points on the agenda.

The Council expressed deep concern at the intensification of hostilities at several locations in Angola, and deplored the loss of life and destruction of property. The only way to achieve an effective, verifiable and sustainable cease-fire, the statement continued, was for the parties to conclude a comprehensive peace agreement. The Council called on them to honour the commitments they had already voluntarily agreed to in Lusaka, to exercise maximum restraint and to stop all military actions immediately.

While acknowledging that the overall situation remained serious, the Council welcomed the improvement in the delivery of humanitarian relief assistance to the affected population in Angola. It urged the parties to continue to cooperate with the United Nations agencies and the non-governmental organizations in ensuring the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian relief supplies and the necessary security for its efficient distribution. It called upon the international community to contribute generously to humanitarian aid efforts in Angola.

The Council commended the efforts to bring about peace made by the Secretary-General, his Special Representative and the Chief Military Observer of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), and also those of the three observer States to the peace process, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the neighbouring States.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today deplored the attempt on 5 February by some members of the Haitian Senate to elect a new leadership, and their attempt two days later to occupy the office of the legitimate leadership of the Senate. According to a United Nations spokesman, participating in the Senate elections last Saturday were people elected during the 18 January 1993 elections in Haiti, which the international community declared to be illegal.

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The spokesman said the Senators' actions constituted a violation of the letter and the spirit of the New York Pact, concluded under the auspices of the United Nations, according to which those individuals would voluntarily abstain from taking their seats in Parliament until a Conciliation Commission had rendered its verdict on the matter. The Secretary-General, according to the spokesman, regarded those acts as discrediting Haitian democratic institutions and impeding a solution to the political crisis in that country. Mr. Boutros-Ghali appealed to all the signatories of the New York Pact to honour their commitments.

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Efforts to combat economic and organized crime, the role of criminal law in protecting the environment and the use of the mass media in crime prevention will be among the issues addressed at the second of a series of five regional meetings -- this one to be held next week in Kampala, Uganda -- in preparation for the 1995 Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

The preparatory meeting for the African region will be held from 14 to 18 February, hosted by the Government of Uganda in cooperation with the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Topics to be discussed include promoting the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme; the improvement of law enforcement agencies, prosecution systems, courts and correction administrations; strategies for preventing urban crime, including juvenile crime and violence; and victims' concerns.

The first regional preparatory meeting, for Asia and the Pacific, was held in January in Bangkok. Other regional meetings in the series will be held, during the next six weeks, in Austria, Costa Rica and Jordan.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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Prepared by Central News

DH/1581
11 February 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ The Secretary-General calls on all parties to the conflict in southern Sudan to cease all hostilities immediately to help put an end to the suffering of the innocent civilian population.

+ A former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, Mahmoud Mestiri, has been named leader of the special mission to Afghanistan, called for in operative paragraph 4(a) of General Assembly resolution 48/208.

+ The Secretary-General appoints Peter Hansen, of Denmark, as Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, effective 1 March.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed his deep concern over the renewed fighting in southern Sudan. He called on all parties to the conflict to cease all hostilities immediately to help put an end to the suffering of the innocent civilian population.

According to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General, the military actions, combined with severe drought conditions, were exacerbating the suffering of tens of thousands of innocent victims in the conflict. It was estimated that at least 150,000 people had been displaced in the Nemule, Mundri and Maridi areas. The escalating conflict might result into widespread flows of refugees into neighbouring countries.

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The Secretary-General today appointed a former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, Mahmoud Mestiri, to lead the special mission to Afghanistan called for by operative paragraph 4(a) of General Assembly resolution 48/208. The Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, S. Mousouris, would form part of the mission.

By operative paragraph 4(a) of resolution 48/208, the General Assembly requested the Secretary General "to dispatch as soon as possible a United Nations special mission to Afghanistan to canvass a broad spectrum of

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For information media--not an official record

Afghanistan's leaders to solicit their views on how the United Nations can best assist Afghanistan in facilitating national rapprochement and reconstruction, and report to the Secretary-General their findings, conclusions and recommendations for appropriate action".

* * *

Peter Hansen, of Denmark, was today named by the Secretart-General as the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, effective 1 March. Mr. Hansen has been the Executive Director of the Commission on Global Governance, Geneva, since 1992. Previously, he was Executive Director of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, from 1985 to 1992, and was Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Coordination, from 1978 to 1985. Since 1993, he has been the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee established to follow up the Washington Conference in support of the Middle East peace process.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1582
14 February 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council meets to discuss situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina; members welcome NATO decision to use air strikes to halt attacks on Sarajevo; Russian representative says threat applies to all sides, not just Serbs, and calls for demilitarization of city.

+ Massacre of civilians in Stupni Do, Bosnia and Herzegovina, last October, is described in report of Secretary-General; 36 appear to have been killed by extremist elements of Croatian Defence Council.

+ General Assembly appoints José Ayala Lasso of Ecuador as High Commissioner for Human Rights; approves expenditure of $30 million for expansion of observer mission in South Africa; requests that all States and international organizations to give urgent support to help Madagascar, following recent cyclones and floods there.

* * *

Members of the Security Council today welcomed the decision by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to use air strikes to halt attacks on Sarajevo. The Council was meeting in response to urgent requests from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Pakistan and the Russian Federation, to discuss the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A letter from the Bosnian Government, citing the shelling of Sarajevo on 5 February which killed 66 civilians, called on the Council "to determine why the existing mandate has not been utilized to to confront those who have attacked the United Nations-designated 'safe area' of Sarajevo and have committed this terrorist act". Pakistan, representing the Organization of the Islamic Conference, also called for a consideration of the 5 February massacre, attributing it to Serbian gunners. Russia said that some members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) were interpreting NATO's demand that all sides withdraw their heavy weapons from the Sarajevo area as a one-sided ultimatum to the Bosnian Serbs. It called for a Council meeting, open to all countries, to consider practical ways to demilitarize Sarajevo and introduce a United Nations administration there.

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For information media—not an official record

Addressing the Council this morning, Council members generally welcomed the decision by NATO and the steps taken by the Secretary-General to prepare for the use of force. They stated that those actions had been fully authorized by existing Council resolutions. They emphasized that force was designed to underpin efforts by the United Nations and the European Union to achieve a negotiated settlement of the conflict, and they stressed that air strikes must be carried out with caution and precision. The Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina told the international community that the proper response to a terrorist act was the use of force and not a call for more negotiations.

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The massacre of civilians in Stupni Do in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 23 October 1993 is described in a report of the Secretary-General, dated 10 February (S/1994/154), issued today. The report, based on the findings of the Military Police of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), was submitted at the request of the Security Council following the attack on the predominantly Muslim village by troops of the Croatian Defence Council (HVO).

According to the report, 23 victims have now been identified and another 13 are missing and presumed dead. The survivors have described the attackers as raping, robbing and shooting even those who offered to surrender. The main suspects appear to be extremist elements of the HVO from Kiselkak, Travnik and Kakanj. The Secretary-General said that investigations were continuing in order to gain as much evidence as possible, with a view to identifying the perpetrators for eventual trial before the International Tribunal for Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law in Former Yugoslavia since 1991.

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The General Assembly this morning appointed José Ayala Lasso, of Ecuador, as High Commissioner for Human Rights, for a four-year term of office effective 28 February 1994. The Assembly created the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights last December, and charged the Commissioner with playing an active role in preventing human rights violations throughout the world and engaging in a dialogue with all Governments to secure respect for human rights.

Acting on a recommendation of its Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary), the Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments not exceeding $30,040,900 to finance the expansion of the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA). The Mission is being expanded to include monitoring of the elections to be held in South Africa on 27 April.

In other action, the Assembly requested that all States and international organizations provide additional support, on an urgent basis, to mitigate the economic and financial burden on the Malagasy people, following the recent cyclones and floods in Madagascar. Expressing serious concern at the

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extensive damage and devastation in that country, the Assembly said such aid should address needs during the period of emergency and the subsequent process of recovery.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1583
15 February 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Addressing two-day Security Council discussion on Bosnia and Herzegovina, representative of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) condemns NATO decision to use air strikes in Bosnia and Herzegovina; most speakers welcome NATO ultimatum.

+ Second and final consignment of highly-enriched uranium is taken from Iraq to Russia, according to IAEA and Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament, completing process of removing Iraq's declared stocks of nuclear-weapons-grade material.

+ Leaders of two communities in Cyprus agree to enter into intensive discussions with representatives of Secretary-General beginning on Thursday, to ensure effective implementation of confidence-building measures regarding Varosha and Nicosia International Airports.

+ Special Advisor to Secretary-General for Public Policy says preparations are under way to promote global commemoration in 1995 of 50th anniversary of United Nations; expects $10 million to be raised for Anniversary trust fund.

+ International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia reports that at session just ended in The Hague, Judges approved draft Rules of Procedure and Evidence, adopting adversarial rather than the inquisitorial approach; hearings expected to begin in mid-1994.

* * *

Addressing the Security Council this morning as it continued to discuss the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) condemned the decision by the Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to use air strikes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Responding to statements by earlier speakers welcoming the NATO ultimatum, he said some countries had placed blame for the 5 February massacre of civilians in Sarajevo on the Serbs, but the United Nations Protection Force

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(UNPROFOR) had not been able to determine which side was responsible for the attack. Those countries, he said, were obviously looking for a pretext for military intervention.

The only possible solution to the crisis was an overall political settlement to be reached by the three constituent peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina, he said. The Bosnian Serbs and Croats were ready to sign the peace package, but the Bosnian Muslims had opted for the continuation of war and were advancing new conditions in order to obstruct the peace agreement.

The representative of Slovenia praised the NATO decision on air strikes, stating that diplomacy without strength was fruitless when confronted with the forces of aggression. He added that the tragedy of Bosnia and Herzegovina was the most dramatic aspect of a broader security problem in the area. "Let us not forget that concentration of arms and armed personnel in the territories of immediate neighbours of Bosnia and Herzegovina represents in itself a problem for international peace and security," he said.

The two-day discussion, which began yesterday morning, was convened in response to urgent requests from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Pakistan and the Russian Federation. As stated at the outset by the Council President, Roble Olhaye (Djibouti), no resolution was put forward during the meeting.

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A second and final consignment of highly-enriched uranium (HEU) in the form of irradiated nuclear fuel was removed from Iraq on 12 February, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Special Commission dealing with the disposal of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. The removal completed the process of transferring Iraq's declared stocks of nuclear-weapons-grade material from the country.

The IAEA, with the assistance and cooperation of the Special Commission, was charged under Security Council resolution 687 (1991) with the removal of all of Iraq's nuclear-weapons-grade material, that is, HEU and plutonium. The country's separated plutonium was removed from Iraq by the IAEA in 1991. Apart from this, kilogram quantities of highly enriched uranium in the form of nuclear reactor fuel, some fresh and some irradiated, were in Iraq's declared inventory that was under IAEA safeguards. The fresh fuel was removed to Russia in 1991, and the irradiated fuel was removed to Russia on 4 December 1993, and the remainder this past Saturday.

After dilution to lower enrichment at the Chelyabinsk facility, the residual materials will be available for sale under the supervision of the IAEA for use in peaceful nuclear activities. Reprocessing of the fuel is expected to take 6 months.

* * *

The leaders of the two communities in Cyprus have agreed to enter into intesive discussions with representatives of the Secretary-General beginning

on Thursday, to ensure the prompt and effective implementation of the package of confidence-building measures he proposed with regard to Varosha and Nicosia International Airports. According to a United Nations spokesman, their goal is to reach a common understanding on the implementation of the key issues, including the timetable for United Nations administration of of the affected airport areas; a schedule for the reopening of Nicosia Airport; arrangements for making the fenced area of Varosha a special zone for bicommunal contact and commerce; and at Nicosia Airport, traffic rights of airlines, the safe operation of the airport and the free movement of people and goods.

The spokesman said that after having heard the views of the two sides on the above issues, the representatives of the Secretary-General would prepare a note on each issue as a basis for discussion with the two leaders. Other matters related to the implementation of the package would be worked out by the United Nations, with the advice and assistance of the two sides.

* * *

Gillian Martin Sorenson, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General for Public Policy, said this morning that preparations were under way to promote global commemoration in 1995 of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Charter coming into force on 24 October 1945. Addressing the Preparatory Committee for the Anniversary, she said arrangements were being made to ensure as much media coverage as possible, in addition to education programmes and international media events.

Ms. Sorenson said that related conferences were taking place and that many Member States had already created national committees for the anniversary. Although no funds had been allocated for anniversary-related activities from the United Nations regular budget, a trust fund had been established and some $750,000 had already been placed into it. She said she expected that nearly $10 million would eventually be raised.

The Preparatory Committee this morning also considered the possibility of holding a summit to commemorate the anniversary, and what its implications would be for the general debate of the General Assembly that year. Speakers stressed the need to coordinate the two events, to save their Heads of State or Government having to travel to New York twice in a short space of time.

* * *

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, at its second session, held in The Hague from 17 January to 11 February, the Judges prepared and approved the draft Rules of Procedure and Evidence. According to the Tribunal, given the limited precedent value of the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials, they took into consideration the major legal systems of the world and adopted a largely adversarial approach in the Rules, rather than the inquisitorial approach.

The Rules place a strong emphasis on the obligation of States to cooperate with the Tribunal and to take whatever steps may be necessary to

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comply with its orders. This includes the enactment of national legislation where necessary to remove any impediment to the surrender or extradition of suspects or accused. In cases of inaction or refusal to cooperate, the Tribunal will report the matter to the Security Council.

Subject to the scheduling of sessions of the Trial Chambers for cases to be brought before them by the Prosecutor, the future plenary meetings of the Tribunal have been rescheduled for 25 April to 13 May and 18 to 28 July. Hearings will begin as soon as the Prosecutor has completed pre-trial investigations pursuant to the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, hopefully in mid-1994.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1584
16 February 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Democratic People's Republic of Korea, after months of discussion, agrees to allow inspections requested by IAEA in seven declared nuclear facilities; Secretary-General welcomes agreement as very positive step.

+ UNPROFOR investigative team reports that available physical evidence is insufficient to prove which side fired mortar bomb into Sarajevo market place on 5 February; says either side could have done it.

+ Secretary-General conveys report of Co-Chairmen of Conference on Former Yugoslavia on recent peace talks on Bosnia and Herzegovina; parties agree to United Nations administration of Sarajevo and European Union administration of Mostar, but territorial disputes still persist.

+ New Force Commander of UNOSOM II, Lieutenant-General Aboo Samah Bin Aboo Bakar of Malaysia, says for UNOSOM to fulfill mandate it must have cooperation of Somali people, Security Council and international community.

+ As of 31 January, Member States owe United Nations $2.7 billion -- $1.3 billion for Regular Budget and $1.4 billion for peace-keeping operations; only 21 countries have paid 1994 contributions in full.

* * *

Following discussions held in Vienna during recent months, representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) yesterday informed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that the DPRK authorities had agreed to the inspection activities the IAEA has sought to conduct in the country's seven declared nuclear facilities.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali welcomed the agreement as a very positive step. He said he hoped it would facilitate a dialogue between North and South Korea on the other problems between them and on solving the difficulties in the Korean peninsula. The DPRK's initial refusal to allow the inspections became the subject of intensive discussion between it and Republic of Korea and the United States. The Secretary-General, during his visit last

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December to the two Koreas and Japan and China, discussed the matter with senior government officials in the region.

According to a press release issued by the IAEA yesterday, the aim of the inspections is to verify that nuclear material in the seven facilities has not been diverted since earlier inspections. In additon, the inspectors will take certain measures, such as reloading of cameras and changing of seals, to facilitate future verification. The DPRK representatives conveyed their Government's acceptance of the explanations and clarifications provided by the Agency during the discussions.

* * *

After trying to ascertain who fired a mortar bomb into a crowded Sarajevo market place on 5 February, a United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) investigative team has reported that there was insufficient physical evidence to prove that one party or the other was responsible. According to their report, issued at a press conference in Sarajevo today, either side could have fired it.

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, ordered the investigation as a follow-up to the initial effort by the United Nations to determine responsibility for the shelling that killed or wounded between 250 and 275 civilians. Following the incident, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali asked the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to authorize the use of air strikes against forces that attack Sarajevo, which is one of the United Nations-designated "safe areas".

Having examined the crater caused by the 120 mm mortar bomb, the investigation team found it impossible to accurately estimate the angle of descent. That meant that the distance of the origin of fire from the point of detonation in the crowded square could only be defined as being between 300 and 5,551 metres. The report states that the distance of origin of fire overlaps each side of the confrontation line between the Serb and Muslim forces by 2,000 metres. Both parties were known to have 120 mm mortars and the bombs that go along with them, and the team had no reason to believe that either party lacked access to that type of ammunition.

* * *

The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia have reported to the Secretary-General on areas of agreement and contention between the warring parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina at peace talks held in Geneva between 10 and 12 February. He conveyed their report to the Security Council in a letter dated 14 February 1994 (S/1994/173).

With respect to constitutional arrangements, the Co-Chairmen said all three sides had expressly reiterated their acceptance of a union of three republics having, respectively, a Croat majority, a Muslim majority and a Serb majority. The Bosnian Presidency and the Bosnian Croats reiterated their agreement that Mostar would be placed under the administration of the European

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1585
17 February 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential Statement on Rwanda, expresses concern at delays in establishing broad-based transitional government as outlined in the Arusha Peace Agreement; says speedy installation of such a government would stem deterioration of humanitarian situation.

+ World Food Programme calls for greater international response to January appeal for $45 million in food and cash donations for thousands of refugees and displaced people in Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zaire.

+ Bosnia and Herzegovina protests to Security Council about "permissive" definition Bosnian Serbian forces are being permitted of NATO ultimatum with regard to heavy weapons in and around Sarajevo, and of cease-fire agreement signed last week.

+ President of General Assembly tells ASEA workshop on peace and preventive diplomacy that time has come to explore fully possibilities for regional organizations to assist United Nations in maintaining peace and security.

* * *

The Security Council, in a Statement on the situation in Rwanda read out this afternoon by Council President Roble Olhaye (Djibouti), expressed deep concern at the delays in establishing the broad-based transitional government which was one of the key points in the Arusha Peace Agreement signed by the Rwandese parties. The absence of such a government, the Statement said, was an impediment to progress under that Agreement and to the functioning of institutions of the State. It was also having adverse effects on the humanitarian situation in the country, the deterioration of which was of profound concern to the international community. The speedy installation of a broad-based transitional government would facilitate the provision of more effective assistance to the populations in need.

The Council, taking note of the fact that the President of Rwanda had been sworn in as the interim Head of State, encouraged him to continue his efforts for the speedy installation of the other transitional institutions.

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It also called on all the parties to overcome their differences and cooperate fully with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and urged the establishment, without delay, of the provisional institutions provided for in the Arusha Agreement.

Expressing concern at the deterioration in the security situation, particularly in Kigali, the Council reminded the parties of their obligation to respect the weapon-free zone established in and around the city and called their attention to the consequences for them of non-compliance with that provision of the Agreement. It noted that the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) would be assured of consistent support only if the parties implemented the Agreement fully and rapidly.

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The World Food Programme has called for a greater international response to its January appeal for $45 million in food and cash donations for thousands of refugees and displaced people in Burundi, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire who are in extreme need of assistance. Only 25 per cent of the total needs has been funded, seriously hampering the procurement of urgently needed food supplies, according to the WFP. Since the beginning of the Burundi emergency in October 1993, the WFP has been forced to borrow large quantities of food from its other ongoing emergency and development operations in the region, to meet the enormous needs of some 1 million Burundese refugees and displaced people. In the last 100 days, the WFP has provided close to 60 million individual food rations.

But according to Bronek Szynalski, the WFP's Rome-based Director of Emergency Operations who just visited camps in Rwanda, that quantity of food was still insufficient to prevent malnutrition, which he described as appallingly high. In Burenge, Rwanda's most populated camp, with 38,312 refugees, non-governmental organizations have reported that nearly 40 per cent of children under five are malnourished.

* * *

The Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina has protested to the Security Council, in a letter dated 16 February (S/1994/183), the definition being afforded the Bosnian Serbian forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) demand that all heavy weapons in and around Sarajevo be withdrawn or placed under United Nations control, and of the cease-fire agreement signed at Sarajevo airport on 9 February.

He said that the "permissive and invalid definition" of the Security Council resolutions, combined with the interjection of United Nations forces along the existing confrontation lines, and with no further effort by the United Nations command in Bosnia to take control from Serbian forces of certain strategic placements, might have the "unwitting effect of solidifying the unacceptable status quo and institutionalizing the seige of Sarajevo, with its most negative humanitarian, military and political consequences".

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The Ambassador said that his Government believed that the international community would want to avoid those consequences, and he urged the Security Council to take note and ensure its resolutions were effectively implemented and that the seige of Sarajevo was truly lifted.

* * *

The President of the General Assembly, S.R. Insanally (Guyana), said today that the time had come to explore fully the possibilities which Chapter VIII of the Charter provided for regional organizations to assist the United Nations in maintaining peace and security. In a message to the final workshop of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)/United Nations Cooperation on Peace and Preventive Diplomacy, being held in Bangkok, Thailand, today and tomorrow, he expressed concern that many local disputes had surfaced to compound the problems of other long-standing conflicts. In those diverse situations, he said, the United Nations had been hard put to maintain peace and security.

Over the past year, some regional organizations, at the request of the Secretary-General, had submitted written proposals on ways of further cooperating with the United Nations. He said that once those proposals were analysed, an attempt should be made to establish more structured mechanisms for such cooperation. He believed that such issues as the guarantee of the rights of individuals and of human, economic and social development were important factors in maintaining peace and security. It was therefore imperative, he said, that the "Agenda for Peace" be complemented by an "agenda for development".

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CORRECTION: In the Daily Highlights of Wednesday, 16 February 1994, the first sentence in the third last paragraph should have read: "Lieutenant-General Abdo takes up his position on 18 February, replacing General Cevik Bir."

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1586
18 February 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Despite Security Council demand that Croatia halt its "interference" in Bosnia and Herzegovina, some 5,000 Croatian troops still believed to be in Bosnia, Secretary-General says in letter to Security Council.

+ Special Representative for former Yugoslavia, after meetings with Bosnian Serb and Muslim leaders and head of NATO Southern Command, says much progress is being made towards achieving durable cease-fire, disarmament and disengagement in and around Sarajevo.

+ Secretary-General meets with delegation from FMLN; discusses with them El Salvador's upcoming elections, reintegration of combatants and future ONUSAL role, among other issues.

+ Commission of Experts on grave breaches of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia, holds 11th session in Geneva; final report to be submitted to Secretary-General at end of April.

+ Plight of indigenous peoples actually worsened during International Year of World's Indigenous People, Goodwill Ambassador Rigoberta Menchu Tum tells Commission on Human Rights.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has informed the Security Council in a letter dated 18 February (S/1994/190) that, despite a Council demand that Croatia halt its "interference" in Bosnia and Herzegovina, some 5,000 Croatian Army troops are still believed to be in that country. He said that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) had observed some soldiers leaving on 10 February, and on 15 February a senior Croatian official had stated that elements would withdraw from the Neretva River region the following day, but no such troop movements had been observed. Also, no action had been taken regarding the proposed establishment of a monitoring mechanism to verify troop withdrawals.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali said that no Croatian Army (HV) command posts nor any full HV brigades had been identified, but it appeared that HV troops were now

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being more circumspect. They might be removing their HV insignia while in Bosnia and Herzegovina, he said, and UNPROFOR believed that HV insignia on a number of vehicles had been erased or repainted.

The Security Council demanded on 3 February that Croatia withdraw its troops and military equipment from Bosnia and Herzegovina or face "serious measures", and requested the Secretary-General to report to it within two weeks on progress made towards compliance.

* * *

Yasushi Akashi, the Special Representative of the Secretary General for the former Yugoslavia, said today that significant agreement had been achieved with respect to the current situation in and around Sarajevo. He was addressing the press after he and General Jean Cot, Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) met this morning in Sarajevo with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, and later in Zagreb with the Commander in Chief of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Southern Command. It appeared, he said, that much progress was being made towards achieving a durable cease-fire, disarmament and disengagement, with a very clear-cut role in the process for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

Mr. Akashi there was agreement with Dr. Karadzoc about having very extensive UNPROFOR patrolling within the weapons exclusion zone of 20 kilometres from the centre of Sarajevo, with full freedom of movement assured for the patrols. They had also reached agreement with regard to communications, with the full assurance that hot-lines would be established between UNPROFOR and the Bosnian Serb and Muslim sides. Those heavy weapons which were not withdrawn from the exclusion zone would be grouped and placed in seven different sites, under the control UNPROFOR armed elements, "so that there will not be any possibility of their being taken away", he said.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met yesterday evening with a delegation from the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN), including Joaquín Villalobos and Salvador Samayoa, members of the the Political Committee. According to a United Nations spokesman, the FMLN raised four main issues: the forthcoming change of government and the future of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL); the conduct of the electoral process; reintegration programmes for ex-combatants, including transfers of land; and public order, including the phasing in of the new National Civil Police and the phasing out of the old National Police.

The Secretary-General informed the delegation that he had written recently to President Alfredo Cristiani raising a number of concerns, particlarly regarding public order and reintegration of ex-combatants. The spokesman said Mr. Boutros-Ghali very much hoped that the President would continue to exert his personal authority in the coming months before his term expired to push ahead the implementation of all remaining commitments in the

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peace accords. The Secretary-General reaffirmed to the FMLN delegation the high importance he attaches to the success of the efforts under way in El Salvador under the auspices of the United Nations.

* * *

The Commission of Experts, established to provide the Secretary-General with its conclusions on the evidence of grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and other violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia, held its eleventh session in Geneva on Wednesday. The commission approved an outline of its final report, which it plans to submit to the Secretary-General at the end of April. Before that date, it is also to to finalize arrangements for the transfer of information in its possession to the international criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia which will be meeting in the Hague.

At this session, the expert body considered reports on preliminary investigations of mass graves in United Nations Protected Areas in Sector East and Sector West. It also reviewed the progress made in the ongoing investigations into destruction of cultural property and other violations of international humanitarian law, and into sexual assaults, torture and detention camps, as well as grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions.

* * *

The plight of indigenous peoples in the world had actually worsened during 1993, the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, Rigoberta Menchu Tum, United Nations Goodwill Ambassador of the International Year, told the Commission on Human Rights at a meeting in Geneva earlier this week. Ms. Menchu, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992, said the Year had laid the basis for communication between Governments, institutions and indigenous peoples, yet genocidal practices by Governments the world over persisted. Indigenous peoples had no wish to destabilize States or to supplant Governments, she said, and their impulse to self-determination was an opportunity to avoid conflict.

She added that in Chiapas, Mexico, serious violations of human rights had occurred recently. At her proposal, an Indigenous Initiative for Peace had been established in Chiapas, which had travelled in the area, hearing complaints of human rights abuses from the indigenous peoples and talking to State and Church officials. At a press conference on 27 January, the violations of human and constitutional rights were announced, and details and recommendations were presented to Mexican President Salinas. The Indigenous Initiative, which had been created to work within the International Decade, had had a useful impact in terms of peace, monitoring and direct dialogue.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1587
22 February 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council decides on Sunday that compliance with NATO ultimatum on heavy weapons in and around Sarajevo makes use of air strikes unnecessary at present; 2,500 more troops needed, to maintain UNPROFOR effort in Sarajevo and to possibly extend weapons control to other "safe areas".

+ Secretary-General condemns assassination yesterday of Rwandese Minister of Public Works and Energy in Kigali; says murder could threaten ongoing efforts in Rwanda to establish broad-based transitional government.

+ Preparations for elections in El Salvador, scheduled for 20 March, are progressing without major problems, despite acts of political violence and intimidation last year, Secretary-General reports.

+ Humanitarian and human rights conditions in Haiti have seriously deteriorated, Secretary-General writes to Security Council; Special Representative Dante Caputo tells press that significant agreement has been reached on ways to break political impasse.

* * *

The Security Council decided on Sunday -- in coordination with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) -- not to carry out air strikes at this time against Serbian weapons emplacements in and around Sarajevo. The Council met at the request of the Russian Federation, with the NATO deadline for withdrawal of heavy weapons scheduled for midnight that night. Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Affairs, Kofi Annan, told the Council that according to the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia and the commanders of NATO and United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), Serbian compliance with the ultimatum had been effective. Certain weapons on both the Serb and Muslim sides had not been removed from the exclusion zone, but they would be monitored in place by UNPROFOR.

Mr. Annan also asked Member States to contribute an additional 2,500 troops with equipment, to facilitate in the monitoring of the weapons

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withdrawal and cease-fire in and around Sarajevo. He said troops had been redeployed for that purpose from other parts of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, but they were still needed in those areas.

A United Nations spokesman said today that Mr. Annan had had held meetings over the weekend with troop-contributing countries. Speaking on the Secretary-General's behalf, he underlined "in the strongest possible terms" the need for more troops for UNPROFOR. The figures, he said, were dangerously low before the current situation arose, much lower than the Security Council had authorized for protection of the United Nations-designated "safe areas". He stressed the need for greater numbers, particularly if UNPROFOR was to move into areas other than Sarajevo to try to halt the fighting and shelling, as was now being discussed. "We simply can't do it with the military assets we now have on the ground," he said.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has condemned the assassination yesterday of Felicien Gatabazi, the Minister of Public Works and Energy of Rwanda, in the capital, Kigali. According to a United Nations spokesman, he said the murder threatened to complicate the ongoing efforts in Rwanda to establish a broad-based transitional government. He urged all concerned to make every effort to apprehend the perpetrators and bring them to justice as soon as possible.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali called upon all the parties in Rwanda to exercise maximum restraint and to redouble their efforts to fully implement the Arusha Peace Agreement without further delay.

The Security Council last week expressed concern at delays in implementing the Arusha Agreement and at the deteriorating security situation, particularly in Kigali. It said that installing a broad-based transitional government, as provided for in the terms of the Agreement, would also help stem the deterioration in the country's humanitarian situation.

* * *

Despite some incidents of political violence in El Salvador, preparations for the country's elections on 20 March are proceding smoothly, according to a report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), dated 16 February (S/1994/179). He said that ONUSAL teams, after attending some 200 events since the electoral campaign opened officially on 20 November, had not come across any major problems. Compliance with the electoral norms must be improved, but campaign activities were proceeding without serious incidents.

It was encouraging to note, he said, that the frequency of acts of political violence had diminished during December and January. The Joint Group for the investigation of politically motivated illegal armed groups, established at the United Nations' initiative, was already meeting and discharging its mandate, and the acts of violence and intimidation which took

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place late last year seemed to have not affected the relatively normal climate in which the electoral process was unfolding.

The Secretary-General observed that it was to the credit of the Salvadorian people and their leaders of all persuasions that they were able to overcome the obstacles presented by the country's long internal conflict and harsh environment of crime and unemployment, and to advance to the stage of holding elections. Further difficulties must be expected, he warned, but it was to be hoped they would be few and of little importance.

* * *

The situation in Haiti has seriously deteriorated, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 20 February, he said that his Special Representative for Haiti, Dante Caputo, had reported to him that the Haitian people were under severe strain, notwithstanding efforts to maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance to them, and that the human rights situation had also deteriorated.

He went on to say that a nucleus of the joint United Nations-Organization of American States human rights monitoring mission (MICIVIH) had remained in the capital, Port-au-Prince, ever since the evacuation of the bulk of its personnel last October. Recently, a small number of human rights observers returned to Haiti from the Dominican Republic in the hope that they could resume their tasks, but had been able to do very little. He said that without progress towards a political settlement of the crisis, it would be difficult for him to recommend that MICIVIH should be maintained indefinitely in Haiti.

Mr. Caputo told the press at Headquarters today that a three-day conference in Miami in mid-January, convened to find ways to break the present impasse in Haiti, had recommended to President Jean-Bertrand Aristide that he start the procedure for the nomination of a new prime minister and the formation of a government of national unity. In the past two weeks, Mr. Caputo continued, talks had been held with a group of Parliamentarians from Haiti, including some of the "toughest opponents of President Aristide". The Secretary-General had received a letter on Saturday from the group, signed by representatives of both sides of the conflict, saying that they agreed to the plan presented by the Miami conference, and to the passing as soon as possible of the necessary legislation, within the requirements of the Governors Island Agreement. While this was not a total solution to the crisis, he said, it did represent significant progress.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1588
23 February 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Cease-fire accord is signed by military representatives of Bosnian Government and Bosnian Croat sides, agreeing to halt all offensive actions from noon on Friday, 25 February; in separate development, Special Representative condemns attack yesterday in Central Bosnia in which five UNPROFOR soldiers were injured.

+ Security Council, in resolution on Mozambique, authorizes establishment of police component of ONUMOZ, with simultaneous reduction in military personnel; stresses importance of general elections being held no later than October 1994 and termination of ONUMOZ mandate within a month.

+ Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, in telephone discussion, thanks Secretary-General for drawing attention to progress made towards resolving crisis in Haiti; says he will come to New York for further discussions in early March.

+ United Nations launches appeal for $114 million for emergency humanitarian assistance in Kenya, to assist those affected by drought last year, this year's crop deficit and refugees and those impacted by their presence.

* * *

A cease-fire agreement was signed today by the military representatives of the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Croat sides in Zagreb, at a meeting hosted by the Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), General Jean Cot. According to the text of the accord, the two parties agreed to a total and immediate cessation of hostilities with effect from noon on Friday, 25 February, with no further offensive actions or attacks, a halt to all forms of propaganda against one another, and a fixing of lines of contact and positions as of the time of the cease-fire.

According to Yasushi Akashi, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UNPROFOR forces are to be positioned at key points; heavy weapons are to be withdrawn or put under UNPROFOR control, and a Joint

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Commission is to be established, with representatives of both sides and chaired by UNPROFOR. He said he trusted that the cease-fire would be implemented in all consciousness by both sides. "Unless there is a political will of the two sides to honour this agreement, I'm afraid that whatever UNPROFOR does may be of limited influence," he stressed.

In a separate development, Mr. Akashi condemned the mortar attack yesterday on UNPROFOR troops in central Bosnia, in which five Swedish soldiers were injured. He also expressed increasing concern about the situation at the Sava River Bridge, where about 100 local Serb militiamen had been preventing the movement of UNPROFOR personnel for the previous four days.

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The Security Council today authorized the establishment of a United Nations police component of up to 1,144 personnel as an integral part of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ). It did so by unanimously adopting resolution 898 (1994). To ensure that there was no increase in the cost of ONUMOZ, it also requested the Secretary-General to prepare specific proposals for the drawdown of the number of military personnel.

The police component of ONUMOZ, in accordance with a request from the Government of Mozambique and the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO), is to provide technical support to the National Police Commission, monitor proper conduct of the electoral campaign and verify respect for the political rights of individuals, groups and organizations.

The Council welcomed the recent positive developments in the implementation of the General Peace Agreement, but expressed concern at the continuing delay in other key aspects. It reiterated the vital importance it attached to the holding of general elections in Mozambique no later than October 1994 and to the early commencement of registration and other electoral preparations, and it urged the parties to agree promptly on a specific election date. It also appealed to the international community to provide the necessary financial assistance to facilitate the implementation of the General Peace Agreement and to make voluntary financial contributions to the Trust Fund to be set up to support electoral activities of the political parties.

By the resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare a timetable for the completion of ONUMOZ's mandate and a turnover of its remaining functions to United Nations agencies and programmes by the end of November this year, by which time the elected government would be expected to have assumed office.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali last night talked on the telephone with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti about the letters which Mr. Boutros-Ghali sent earlier this week to the Presidents of the Security Council and the General Assembly. They conveyed the letter he had received from a group of Haitian Parliamentarians about a plan to break the

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current political impasse in their country. According to a United Nations spokesman, President Aristide expressed his appreciation to the Secretary-General for the action he had taken and for drawing public attention to the situation in Haiti.

The spokesman said the Secretary-General invited President Aristide to visit United Nations Headquarters to pursue discussions with him and with the Friends of the Secretary-General for Haiti on ways to resolve the crisis. President Aristide is about to travel to Europe, but said he would meet with Mr. Boutros-Ghali when he returned on 5 March.

In his letter to the Security Council, dated 22 February (S/1994/203), the Secretary-General described as "significant developments" the recent agreements reached between Haitian Parliamentarians from all sides and their acceptance of a plan of action endorsed by President Aristide for the resumed implementation of the Governors Island Agreement.

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The United Nations today launched an appeal for $114 million for emergency humanitarian assistance in Kenya. The programmes in question will benefit three groups of people: persons in areas still suffering from the effects of the 1992-93 drought; those in areas where the impact of the 1993-94 crop deficit has been most severe but which were not previously targeted, and refugees and the large number of people impacted by their presence.

The total cereal deficit in Kenya for 1993-94 has been estimated at over 2 million metric tons. Since the appeal was initially drafted, evidence suggests that the situation has deteriorated even further, leading the World Food Programme (WFP) to almost double its estimated food assistance requirements. The WFP is seeking $46.3 million to respond to the needs of approximately 2 million drought victims, displaced persons and other vulnerable groups. Funds are sought also by the various other United Nations agencies dealing specifically with refugees, children, agriculture and medical care.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Additional Serb forces move into Sava River Bridge area where UNPROFOR personnel have been prevented from moving since last Friday; troops from UNPROFOR's Jordanian, Nepalese, Argentinian and French battalions set up checkpoint near bridge and halt all but humanitarian traffic.

+ Liberian parties reach agreement on most remaining issues impeding start of disarmament and installation of transitional Government, Secretary-General says in report on UNOMIL; elections set for 7 September.

+ Special Rapporteur on Haiti urges Human Rights Commission to ask Security Council to intensify sanctions against Haitian military regime and to seek new ways to help Haitian people free themselves from "reign of terror".

+ With United Nations support to re-establish Somali police force, 8,000 former policemen have returned to work; $9 million contributed and $18.6 million pledged to support process.

+ 27 countries and European Union, representing 87 per cent of world cocoa exports and 55 per cent of world cocoa imports decide to put International Cocoa Agreement, 1993, into effect.

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A spokesman for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) reported today that Serb Territorial Forces had reinforced their positions around the Sava River Bridge, where since last Friday some 100 local Serb militiamen had been preventing the movement of UNPROFOR personnel. The Serb forces were also reported to have laid out mines on the road leading to the bridge, which lies within a United Nations protected area (UNPA).

Yasushi Akashi, the Secretary-General's Special Representative, said on Tuesday that he had been exploring ways of resolving the situation, but that following an on-site assessment by the Deputy Force Commander, General John MacInnis, he had decided to redeploy additional UNPROFOR troops to the area.

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For information media--not an official record

The spokesman said today that UNPROFOR personnel from the Jordanian, Nepalese, Argentinian and French battalions had moved into the area and had set up a checkpoint approximately 1000 metres from the bridge, stopping all but humanitarian traffic.

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The Liberian parties have reached agreement on most of the outstanding issues that were impeding the start of disarmament and the installation of a transitional Government, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In an addendum, dated 23 February, to his second progress report on the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) (S/1994/168/Add.1), he said that the agreement had been reached at a meeting in Monrovia on 15 February facilitated by his Special Representative and the Eminent Person of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

The Secretary-General, in his second progress report on 14 February, had emphasized to the parties in Liberia that the international community's continued support for UNOMIL would depend on the prompt implementation of the Cotonou Agreement, including the installation of the transitional Government, disarmament and the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The Liberian parties reaffirmed at their recent meeting that the Cotonou Agreement provided the best framework for durable peace in Liberia, and agreed that elections would be held on 7 September. They were not able to reach agreement, however, on the disposition of the Cabinet posts of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Finance and Defence. Mr. Boutros-Ghali urged them to demonstrate maximum flexibility and to spare no effort to resolve their remaining differences.

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The United Nations Human Rights Commission's Special Rapporteur on Haiti, Marco Trulio-Brunocelli, told the Commission today that it should ask the Security Council and the Organization of American States (OAS) to maintain and even intensify sanctions against the Haitian military regime. He said those bodies should also look for new ways in which the international community could help the Haitian people free themselves from the present reign of terror and establish a civilian government that would guarantee the enjoyment of the most basic human rights.

Summarizing the situation in Haiti, Professor Brunocelli said that since the Haitian military renounced the Governors Island Agreement last October and prevented the return of President Jean Bertrand Aristide, Haiti had become a territory occupied by criminal bands who spread terror and acted without the least fear of punishment. Any citizen at any time anywhere in Haiti could be killed, detained, beaten or tortured without reason or explanation. He described a resurgence of the exodus of boat people, and said that the Haitian military had breached all the agreements it signed.

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In its effort to promote national rehabilitation in Somalia and to develop the country's infrastructure, the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) is working to re-establish an effective, indigenous police force. According to a United Nations spokesman, 8,000 former Somali policemen have already returned to their jobs. The Organization has provided them with uniforms and vehicles, and UNOSOM recently conducted a two-week training course for police mechanics from across Somalia, to teach them how to use and maintain vehicles supplied by the United States.

The Security Council, in resolution 865, adopted on 22 September 1993, affirmed its commitment to the re-establishment of Somalia's police force, as well as the country's judicial and penal systems. It urged Member States to provide assistance, including personnel, financial support, equipment and training for that effort. To date, cash contributions totalling $9 million have been received, and others for $18.6 million have been pledged.

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At a meeting held in London earlier this week, 27 countries and the European Union, representing 87 per cent of world exports and 55 per cent of world imports of cocoa, decided to put the International Cocoa Agreement of 1993 into effect among themselves as of last Tuesday.

The new Agreement brings together all major producers, including Malaysia, which was not a member of the previous Agreement. The main absentee on the consumers' side remains the United States, which was not a member of the 1986 Agreement either. The new International Cocoa Agreement was negotiated during 1992 and 1993 under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). It will remain in force until 30 September 1999, and can be extended for another four years. Alain Gauze, the Minister in charge of commodities in Côte d'Ivoire, the world's major cocoa producer, stated that with the entry into force of the new Agreement it was now possible for producer and consumer countries to manage the market together and to give the world cocoa economy the vitality it had lacked over the last eight years.

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